

## REFERENCES

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### 3. SIGHTING OF RATEL (*MELLIVORA CAPENSIS*) IN SIDHI DIST. OF MADHYA PRADESH

The occurrence of the Ratel (*Mellivora capensis*) in Morena District in north Madhya Pradesh have been mentioned in the *Journal* (Rajiv Saxena, *JBNHS* 92 (3): 410).

Way back in the early eighties, three animals were seen by me during an evening drive in the Barnawapara Sanctuary of Raipur District. On 5 April, 1993 while returning from Shahdol to Sidhi, around 2040 hours, a Ratel was seen on the edge of a culvert, on a small nallah of the river Banas. The location was hardly 100 m from the

river. The Ratel was searching for food around the culvert and on the approach of our jeep, it turned and dashed away towards the forest adjacent to the river. The location of the sighting is the northeastern part of Madhya Pradesh and confirms its occurrence in that part of the State.

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A.M.K. BHAROS  
27-MIG Indravati Colony,  
Raipur, M.P. 492 001.

### 4. SIGHTING OF TWO CAT SPECIES (*FELIS* SP.) FROM THE WESTERN GHATS, SOUTH INDIA

Two species of cats, the Leopard Cat (*Felis bengalensis* Kerr) and the Rustyspotted Cat (*Felis rubiginosa* Geoffroy), were recently collected from the Western Ghats in South India. The Leopard Cat was obtained from the Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary in the southwest end of the Western Ghats in Trivandrum District, Kerala (76° 40' N-77° 17' N and 8° 7' E-8° 53' E; altitude 197 m to 1,373 m). The vegetation consists of moist deciduous, semi-evergreen and evergreen forests.

During studies on crop damage by wild animals in the Kani tribal settlements, a specimen of the Leopard Cat was brought to us on 1st July, 1994. The cat was killed with a spear made of bamboo. The body measurements were; total length 85 cm; length from neck to tail 37 cm; length of tail 30 cm; snout to neck 18 cm; length of fore limb 26 cm, length of hind limb 30 cm. Weight was about 2.82 kg. Another leopard cat was shot dead by the Kani tribals

on 9th Dec. 1994, but we could not collect the specimen.

Rustyspotted Cat (*Felis rubiginosa* Geoffroy) was obtained from Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu State 77° 17'-77° 90' N and 10° 20' - 10° 40' E). This cat was run over by a vehicle on the Udumelpet-Chinnar road near the Amaravathy reservoir. The skin of the cat was subsequently identified as the Rustyspotted Cat by J.C. Daniel of the Bombay Natural History Society.

We are reporting the site specific location of these two cats because the sighting of these nocturnal cats has become very rare in the Western Ghats.

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E.A. JAYSON  
G. CHRISTOPHER  
Division of Wildlife Biology,  
Kerala Forest Research Institute,  
Peechi-680 653, India.